THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Generally, paper attracts 20% excise duty. However, to promote the use of unconventional raw materials in the manufacture of paper, paper manufactured by paper mills from pulp of unconventional raw materials is charged to duty at concessional rates of 5%, 10% or 15% depending, inter-alia, upon the extent of unconventional raw materials used. The benefit of general scheme of concession for small scale units is also applicable to paper. The two schemes described aforesaid are however, mutually exclusive.

(b) The size of the paper mill has been considered a relevant criterion for mills using unconventional raw materials to the extent of atleast 50% but less than 75% by weight of pulp. In this case, the concessional rate of duty of 10% ad valorem applies only when the paper mill does not have a bamboo/wood pulp making plant and clearances of all paper and board do not exceed 33,000 MT in a financial year.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

वी॰एल॰पी॰टी॰/एल॰पी॰टी॰ सुविधाओं के लिए संचार टावर का उपयोग

2066. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** के सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उनके मंत्रालय ने वी॰एल॰पी॰टी॰/एल॰पी॰टी॰ की स्थापना के लिए टी॰वी॰ टावर के निर्माण में होने वाले व्यय को कम करने हेतु यह निर्णय लिया है कि संचार विभाग द्वारा टेलेफोन की सुविधा प्रदान करने के लिए निर्मित किये जाने वाले टावर का उपयोग वी॰एल॰पी॰टी॰/एल॰पी॰टी॰ की स्थापना के लिए भी किया जाएगा; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उपरोक्त निर्णय के अनुसार कुल्लू जिले में किन-किन स्थानों पर इस प्रकार के संयुक्त टावर निर्मित किए जाने का प्रस्ताव है और वी॰एल॰पी॰टी॰/एल॰पी॰टी॰ की सुविधा प्रदान करने के लिए उनके मंत्रालय द्वारा क्या योजना बनाई गई है?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (श्री के॰ पी॰ सिंह देव): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) कुल्लू जिले में फिलहाल ऐसा कोई अनुमोदित स्थान नहीं है जहां पर दूरसंचार विभाग की सुविधाओं का उपयोग करके अति अल्प शक्ति ट्रांसमीटर/अल्प ट्रांसमीटर स्थापित किए जाने का प्रस्ताव है।

भारतीय पटसन निगम के कर्मचारियों की छंटनी

2067. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:

क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने हाल ही में भारतीय पटसन निगम को निर्देश दिया है कि जून, 1996 तक निगम के 25 प्रतिशत कर्मचारियों की छंटनी कर दी जाए; और

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो कर्मचारियों को निगम की सेवा से सेवा-विवृत्त करने के संबंध में निर्देश क्या हैं?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री जी॰ वेंकट स्वामी): (क) और (ख) जूट कारपोरेशन आफ इण्डिया ने अपने कार्यचालन में सुधार लाने तथा अपने संस्थान को सुव्यवस्थित करने के उद्देश्य से सामान्य प्रक्रिया में सेवा-निवृत्ति/संनिघर्षण, स्वैच्छिक सेवा निवृत्ति योजना आदि के माध्यम से जून, 1996 तक अपने कार्यबल को 25 प्रतिशत तक सन्तुलित करने का निर्णय लिया है।

Export of Handloom Products

2068. **SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH:**
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value of the handloom products exported annually during the last three years;

(b) the names of states from which major handloom export takes place;

(c) the names of countries to which handloom products are exported?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The exports of cotton handloom fabrics and

made-ups during the last three years have been as given below:—

(Value in Rs. crore)

1992-93	1033.6
1993-94	1297.5
1994-95	1504.6

(b) State-wise export figures are not maintained.

(c) India's handloom products are being exported to more than hundred countries of the world. However, Member States of European Union, U.S.A., Japan and Australia are the major importers of India's handloom products.

CBI Raids at International Airport in Hyderabad

2069. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that CBI on 21st July, 1995 conducted a surprise raid at the International Airport in Hyderabad and recovered a large amount of Indian and foreign currency/ goods which the Customs Officials were reportedly extorting from the passengers, as reported in the Times of India of 22nd July, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what action Government propose to take against such persons/officials involved in the matter; and

(d) whether similar raids are also proposed to be carried out by CBI at the other International Airport in the country, if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The raid was conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on 20.7.1995. During the raid foreign currencies of various denomination was seized from the possession of officials of Customs Department and one porter working at the airport.

(c) The Government will take appropriate action after the offence report is received from the CBI. As an immediate measure the concerned officials have been debarred from duty at the airport.

(d) As per Government instructions on Programme of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Work issued to all CBI Anti-corruption branches, various airports belonging to the Airports Authority of India are to be kept under surveillance.

Excise duty on soft drink

2070. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the rate of excise duty payable on aerated water (soft drinks);

(b) whether soft drinks are categorised as a consumer product;

(c) what is the rate of excise duty payable on consumer products like ice-creams, sugar confectionary, biscuits, chewing gums, chocolates, fruit pulp based drinks, tea and coffee; and

(d) the reason why soft drinks are not treated on par with consumer products specified in (c) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Aerated water, falling under heading Nos. 22.01 and 22.02 of the Central Excise Tariff, attracts excise duty @ 40 per cent. ad valorem.

(b) For the purpose of levy of excise duty, goods are not separately categorised as consumer products or otherwise.